

Further, this budget cuts or under-funds all of the programs—from aging programs, social service grants, and nursing programs, to SAMHSA, newborn screening programs, maternal and child health programs, state and local capacity building and training for doctors, nurses and other health providers—that are not only integral, but essential to the elimination of health disparities. Further, the cuts in that budget to Veterans programs will also impact their services and undermine their health.

And, as though to add insult to injury, even though NIH gets a slight increase in this budget, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH instead gets a cut!

Madam Speaker, the nation's leading economists often talk about "good" debt as investment debt that creates or improves value and "bad" debt, which creates no value. It's time that we champion a budget that creates good debt!

By making an increased investment in the health and health care of all Americans who have unmet health and health care needs, we would be making an investment that will, in fact, create value by bolstering the health and well being of not only individuals and communities, but of the workforce, our defense and ultimately our nation and our nation's security.

Unfortunately, this budget does little more than continue to create the "bad" debt that has accumulated during the last 6 years and from which most Americans have not benefited at all. In fact, despite the very high levels of spending in those years, most find themselves worse off economically educationally and with respect to their health.

Now that the prior bad debt has been created and used for tax cuts and squandered on a war that yet leaves our soldiers under-protected and under-equipped, the poor and people of color who have been further marginalized are told they will have to continue to suffer because there is no money and now at our expense, the budget must be balanced.

This is patently unfair and unjust. This budget does not put access to healthcare within the reach of the millions of hard working, low income Americans and their families. All it does is continue to ensure the huge tax breaks for million and billionaires. The president's budget continues the misguided health priorities of the Republican Party, wealthy corporations and their conservative base.

We have a great challenge before us in this budget with the unprecedented deficit and the huge debt this administration has put us in to countries like China.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, far too many of the people we represent have waited patiently for far too long and in that time hundreds of thousand have died because of the unhealthy communities they live in and because they could not get the healthcare they needed.

Despite the fire fiscal circumstances left for us to deal with, and for us to correct, we cannot delay healthcare justice for them, for justice further delayed is justice further denied.

We must reject the president's budget and replace it with a new one that responds to the needs of the people who are depending on us and is in keeping with the ideals this nation was founded on.

The time to do more is now; this is our moment to answer the call of millions of Americans who have the desire for a healthier today

and a healthier tomorrow for themselves and their families. This is the time to redefine our Country through realigning its priorities.

This budget is our opportunity to set a new direction for our Nation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF "SECRET SANTA," MR. LARRY STEWART

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Larry Stewart, more affectionately known as "Secret Santa." He passed away January 12 of this year of complications from cancer of the esophagus. For 27 years during the Christmas season, he anonymously gave away more than 1.3 million dollars in cash to those that needed it most. Although he was a resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri in my Fifth Congressional district and was known as "Secret Santa" in the Kansas City area, he distributed his "gifts" from east coast to west coast and many areas of the country in between.

He went to New York during the holiday season of 2001. He distributed \$25,000 in \$100 bills to the people of New York City who were still feeling the devastation of September 11. In 2002, he distributed cash "gifts" in the Virginia area which was reeling from sniper attacks. In 2003, he visited the San Diego area which was being damaged by fires. And in 2004, he went to Florida where Larry gave nearly \$30,000 to those who had suffered damage from the hurricane. As can be seen, this man's generosity touched many of my colleagues' Congressional Districts. He also traveled to the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Mississippi, the state of his birth.

Following the gifts in New York City, he appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show where he wore a Santa Claus costume to protect his identity. Only his family, and a handful of local law enforcement and fire officials knew his real identity, hence the name "Secret Santa." Even though I was the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri for 8 years during his gift giving escapades, I did not know who he was, and there was quite a bit of talk of who really was Secret Santa. As I said before, his "gifts" were of cash to the less fortunate. They were gifts from his heart and were never taken as a tax deduction. Much of the money he gave away was to people he saw on the street, at pool halls, pawn shops, and Laundromats—he went where the people were.

This last holiday season, Larry came forward to reveal his real identity. For 26 years he was known only as "Secret Santa," but he received word that the tabloids were about to announce who he really was. His final holiday season, he was able to give away \$100,000 in memory of his late friend, the legendary "Buck" O'Neil, who had passed away in October 2006. This amount was increased by an additional \$75,000 from "elves" who had come forward to carry on his program.

Larry was a member of the Crime Commission Board, the Foundation Board for the St. Luke's Hospital, the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E., and the Eastern Jackson County Youth Court.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his adult children, sons Joe, John, and Mark Stewart, as well as daughter Kimberly Stewart, and his many relatives and friends. He was a shining example of humanity and kindness. He gave of himself and asked nothing in return. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING ROSS AND JUDY PARADIS

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a husband and wife who have been tireless advocates for many of the disadvantaged in rural northern Maine. Ross and Judy Paradis are from Frenchville, a small town along the St. Lawrence River overlooking our neighbor to the north, Canada.

Through a range of professional positions, Ross and Judy Paradis have worked day and night to help make the lives of the residents of the St. John Valley better and more prosperous.

They were both teachers, then state representatives in the Maine Legislature. Judy was also a state senator. Even today, with no direct ties to public office, the Paradis have championed the causes of their neighbors. They continue to work as advocates on education, housing, health and human services, and many other issues that affect the day-to-day lives of those around them. They champion Maine's children, Maine's rural communities and Maine's way of life. They have also helped to preserve the stories and culture of Maine's Acadian heritage.

Ross and Judy have always stepped up when faced with a challenge. As a result, they have gained the respect of their colleagues from all over the state and beyond. Their concern has always been the needs of their constituents in the Saint John Valley and the people of Maine.

The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful advocates and friends.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BRITT "MAX" MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER'S TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 72, which honors Dr. Britt "Max" Mayfield upon his retirement from his position as the Director of the National Hurricane Center. This resolution recognizes his leadership at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Tropical Prediction Center.